1. (Twice Amended) A method for electronic archiving of a data stream output by a computer in a computer-specific data format that contains at least one of graphic information and text information, comprising the steps of:

distinguishing form data from variable data in the data stream based on pixels while said data is in a printer data format; and

differently processing the two data types.

4. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 20, wherein said printer data format is printer-specific data.

15. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for electronic archiving of a data stream output by a computer in a printer-specific data format that contains at least one of graphic and text information, wherein the print data stream is converted from the printer-specific data format into a data format based on pixels, comprising:

an archiving interface that differently processes form data in the data format based on pixels and variable data while said data is in the printer-specific data format.

21.(Amended) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said overlay information is selected from the information consisting of control information, macro information, graphic information, predetermined text modules and predetermined text attributes.